

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 /017 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:KAKURZE

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:KAKURZE

S/S:WLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 106733

TOSEC 904

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT ACTION USCINCEUR INFO SECSTATE WASHDC,
JCS, DIA FROM USDAO CAIRO MAY 21:

QUOTE S E C R E T NOFORN//0185 MAY 74 DATT/AIRA SENDS

PLEASE RETRANSMIT TO SECSTATE PARTY.

SUBJ: VISIT OF US MILITARY OFFICERS TO EGYPT (U)

1. (S/NF) THIS MORNING I WAS INFORMED BY MAJOR GENERAL
IZZLDIN MOUKHTAR, OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN ARMY SPOKESMAN , THAT FIELD
MARSHAL ISMAIL HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO CONTACT ME AND EXTEND AN
INVITATION TO US MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN EUROPE TO BE THE GUESTS
OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES FOR A PERIOD TO BE DETERMINED
THROUGH MUTUAL DISCUSSION. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, ACCORDING
TO MOUKHTAR, IS TO FACILITATE THE UNDERSTANDING BY US MILITARY
AUTHORITIES OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES. GEN MOUKHTAR STATED
THAT THE GROUP WOULD: BE RECEIVED BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES, BE BRIEFED ON THE CONDUCT OF THE OCTOBER
WAR, VISIT THE FRONT AS WELL AS THE SECOND AND THIRD ARMIES,
AND IF INTERESTED, A TANK DIVISION, AN AIRBASE, A NAVAL BASE, AN
ENGINEERING BATTALION, ETC. COMMANDERS OF EACH OF THE SERVICES,
COMMANDERS OF THE TWO ARMIES, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF

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THE MILITARY FORCES WOULD TALK TO THE GROUP. THE EGYPTIANS HAVE

NO PARTICULAR FEELING AS TO THE SIZE OF THE GROUP OR THE RANKS OF THE INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING AND THE MATTER IS LEFT TO OUR DISCRETION. GEN MOUKHTAR DID SAY IF THE THE STATURE OF THE LEASER OF THE DELEGATION WARRANTED, HE FELT CERTAIN THAT THE DELEGATION WOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE MINISTER OF WAR, FIELD MARSHAL ISMAIL.

2. (SNF) DURING THE CONVERSATION, MOUKHTAR STATED THAT EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE LEARNED FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY THAT ISRAELI OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TOURING VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND CONDUCTING BRIEFINGS ON THE OCTOBER WAR. HE SAID THAT THERE IS NO REASON BY THE EGYPTIANS COULD NOT CONDUCT SIMILAR BRIEFINGS; HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT THE BRIEFINGS WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF PROVIDED ON THE SPOT. DURING OUR HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION, THE ORIGINAL INVITATION EXTENDED FROM AN "OCTOBER WAR BRIEFING" TO THE PARAMETERS WHICH I DESCRIBED ABOVE.

3. (SNF) COMMENT. THE MANNER IN WHICH THE INVITATION WAS MADE AS WELL AS THE BROAD PARAMETERS OUTLINED IS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO COUNTER ISRAELI EFFORTS. IN ADDITION, WE ARE NOW IN POSITION TO CONDUCT AN IN-DEPTH PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, RECOMMENDED DUE CAUTION AND COORDINATION IN VIEW OF THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THIS AREA. BELIEVE WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS INVITATION; HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE PROLONGED ABSENCE OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR ARMED FORCES AND THOSE OF EGYPT, RECOMMEND THIS INITIAL VISIT BE AT THE DCS OPS LEVEL OF EACH OF THE SERVICES IN CINCEUR AREA. DCS/OPS COULD EASILY BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN EQUAL NUMBER OF QUALIFIED STAFF OFFICERS SELECTED FOR THEIR HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE. THE GROUP WOULD THEN BE LIMITED TO TOTAL OF EIGHT OFFICERS. IN EVENT THAT A LOWER LEVEL DELEGATION IS DECIDED UPON, RECOMMEND CAREFUL SELECTION OF HIGHLY COMPETENT OFFICERS. NATURALLY, FROM ANY Vantage POINT, I WOULD RECOMMEND OPTION A, HOWEVER, RECOMMEND JCS-STATE COORDINATION PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION.

4. (SNF) PROPOSED SCENARIO FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: DELEGATION ARRIVES IN CAIRO EVENING PRECEDING DAY OF VISIT.

DAY 1: CALL ON BRIEFING BY AMBASSADOR EILTS
BRIEFING BY EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES AT NASSR HIGHER ACADEMY
(EQUIVALENT TO NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE).
WORKING LUNCH HOSTED BY EGYPTIANS
INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWED BY FREE TIME.

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DAY 2: VISIT BATTLEFIELD AND THIRD ARMY

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DAY 3: VISIT BATTLEFIELD AND SECOND ARMY

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DAY 4: VISIT MECHANIZED DIVISION, AIRBASE, NAVAL BASE,
ENGINEERING BATTALION.

RON

DAY 5: RETURN TO CAIRO FOR FINAL BRIEFING AT NASSR HIGHER
ACADEMY IN A.M.
SIGHTSEEING IN AFTERNOON.
P.M. RECEPTION AND DINNER HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR FOR US AND
EGYPTIAN MILITARY.
#NOTE: HEAD OF DELEGATION CONCERNED COULD
VISIT HIS COUNTER-PART SERVICE AND INSTALLATION.

COMMENT: GENERAL MOKHTAR MADE POINT OF RECOMMENDING THAT I
RETURN TO HIM WITH A PROPOSED ITINERARY ONCE INVITATION HAD
BEEN COMMUNICATED TO MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN EUROPE. TIME
FRAME FOR THE VISIT AS SUGGESTED BY GEN MOUKHTAR WOULD BE
AS MUTUALLY AGREED UPON BUT SOMETIME BETWEEN 10 JUNE AND THE
END OF THE MONTH

5. (U) AMBASSADOR CONCURS IN THIS VISIT.
GDS 31 DEC 82 UNQUOTE
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, TOSEC 904, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE106733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:KAKURZE
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740126-1011
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740526/aaaaawwn.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <28 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF US MILITARY OFFICERS TO EGYPT (U)
TAGS: MILI, EG, US
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005